

# BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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## Minutes of The Peak Area Meeting Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018, The Maynard, Grindleford

### Present:

|                         |   |                             |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Rob Greenwood (Chair)   | Becky Hammond (secretary)               | Henry Folkard               |
| Dave Parry              | John Coefield                           | Ben Bransby                 |
| Steve Clark             | Iain Mount                              | Toby Archer                 |
| Clare Reading (FRCC)    | Frag Last                               | Richard Wheeldon            |
| Graeme Hammond          | Phil Robins                             | Paul Harrison               |
| Stephen Coughlan        | James McHaffie                          | David Brown                 |
| David Brown             | Mike Pinder (Mountain Training England) | Paul Evans (Karabiner Club) |
| Spenser Gray (Oread MC) | Andy Cairns                             | Alison Cairns               |
| Hazel Jones             | Milena von Mühlen                       | Harry Lewis                 |
| Liz Fowler              | Tina Wilkinson (CMC)                    | John Cook                   |
| Spencer Ramsey          | Dominic Lee                             | Andrew Elliott              |
| Peter Steward           | John Fullwood                           | Andy Reeve                  |
| Austin Knott            | Peter Judd                              | Mark McKenzie               |
| John Bayliss (Peak CC)  | John Bayliss (Peak CC)                  | Kim Leyland                 |
| Hannah Kippax           | David Veryard                           | David Eaton                 |
|                         | <b>45 signed in</b>                     | <b>50 people present</b>    |

### 1. Apologies:

Andy Tickle, Tim Grice, Zoe Spriggins, Gordon Burgess-Parker, James Scott, Jane Phoenix, Peter Hammond, Gill Radcliffe, Crhis Radcliffe, Rob Dyer, Gary Gibson, Adam Long, Mark Warwicker, Rick Gibbon, Brian Griffiths, Rob Townsend, Bill Irving, Michael Smith, Pam Storer, Lynn Robinson, Louise Hawson, Glynis Judd, Chris Sweetman

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed as correct.

### 3. Actions from the previous meetings

- Obtain data about proportion of attendees who are hillwalkers - *figures need collating by Becky*
- Circulate list of fixed gear replacements at Dovedale – *done*
- Letter to the National Trust thanking them for assistance and cooperation at Dovedale – *Rob still needs to do this*

### 4. BMC Organisational Review update

Feedback that the process felt rushed, therefore the timelines have been shifted. BMC AGM has been moved back to June, and there will be an EGM in November.

Approx half the people at tonight's meeting had given feedback online. People felt that it was asking to agree with "groups" of recommendations, and there wasn't much room to comment on individual recommendations other than via very laborious methods.

Mike Pinder said he was disappointed at the apparent disregard shown by the Organisational Review Group to National Council.

Neil Foster felt that there was unfair criticism that the ORG were not prepared to take feedback on board. But he shared concerns regarding the "packaging" of recommendations.

Becky Hammond said that the ORG update indicates that feedback has been taken on board. And the ORG did explain why the recommendations need to come as a package because they're inter-related.

Rob Greenwood felt that the online questionnaire was "sledgehammer by category". Henry Folkard added that it was not a well designed questionnaire.

Rob Greenwood said we need to see what's revised and then feedback with an appropriate level of detail.

Simon Lee highlighted that the slower timetable has consequences e.g. for decisions made by the board, major new initiatives, etc. Stuff is being put on hold. There is uncertainty over Sport England funding which is currently on hold and will not be backdated. By delaying meeting SE's requirements, they may continue to withhold funding. From April 2018 to November 2018 this will be approx. £500,000. Consequently the BMC are running down the reserves to make up the shortfall.

Peter Judd explained that the Hillwalking Implementation Group's plans have been delayed by this, and it affects the funding of important officers' jobs.

Mike Pinder recognised the financial implications, but would rather that "the club" is put on a sound footing which increases the chances of future funding.

Peter Judd agreed that it's important to get it right.

Rob Greenwood explained that the attitude of the ORG had unsettled people who did not feel empowered in giving feedback.

David Brown asked if there were any particular issues that people had with the ORG recommendations.

Rob Greenwood summarised it as the "democratic deficit" that was expressed at the previous meeting.

Someone asked whether people understand that a lot of the problem is due to deficiencies in the current structure, and this process is a necessary pain?

David Brown said his fundamental issue was about the make-up of the board.

Rob Greenwood said that this was now going over old ground, and closed the discussion.

Await revised recommendations from the ORG.

#### **5. Hillwalking update** (Austin Knott & Peter Judd)

*Mend Our Mountains Make One Million* will be contributing to work at Cut Gate and the Great Ridge. They are really keen that we do something big and substantial, particularly for the Great Ridge (as mountain bikers have "adopted" Cut Gate).

The "public" launch of MOMMOM will be at the Sheffield Adventure Film Festival in March.

Peter's idea is for a torchlight night walk to light up a section of the Great Ridge for a photograph. Looking at the 14<sup>th</sup> April, and is hoping for participants and help with organising it. Please contact Peter and talk to clubs, etc.

Generally the fundraising is going well: commercial sponsors have taken it to 6 figures already.

Dark Peak Harriers have made a substantial contribution.

Ticket sales from a raffle held at this meeting tonight exceeded £100.

#### **6. BMC representation on Mountain Training England board** (Mike Pinder)

A briefing paper had been circulate prior to the meeting, proposing that the BMC reduces from four to one place on the board of Mountain Training England.

Mike explained that MTE have been undergoing a review and established a structure that works and is fit for purpose. The one remaining anomaly is the "advisory" body/council. The BMC has historically had four places on this – all other bodies have only one. The BMC has various other voices in MTE, including one appointed director. The question of this anomaly has been put off for a while for various reasons.

Graeme Hammond asked *How many people are on the panel, and who are they?* 21 organisations represented – all have expressed a desire to input into the structure and administration of awards.

Simon Lee asked *How does each organisation benefit each other?* The Mountain Training Board used to be a sub-committee of the BMC. They are now two separate organisations, but linked (e.g. MTB funding is part of the BMC Sport England funding bid), administrative resources are provided by the BMC, etc. Neither is answerable to the other. MTB reach decisions by consensus. It is an equitable relationship.

Rob Greenwood explained that initially he thought there would be a decrease in BMC involvement, but actually it sounds like it won't be.

Mike explained that the BMC have not been using all their four votes – which created challenges when the revised Memorandum & Articles had to be approved.

David Brown said that National Council are happy with the proposal.

The meeting supported the proposal by a show of hands.

#### **7. Peak Limestone South guidebook**

At the printers! Was delayed by financial problems with one printer. Should be delivered next week.

#### **8. Limestone Festival** (Spenser Gray)

The idea is to promote the area and the new guidebook, whilst the crags are in a good state. Will be based at the campsite at Birchover, using the Druid Inn for talks on the Saturday night. Hoping to get clubs to come along and participate / membership drive.

#### **9. Access updates**

##### **a. Stanage/North Lees** (Henry Folkard)

At the last meeting Sarah Fowler (PDNPA Chief Executive) made a number of commitments, including a full time warden for Stanage/North Lees. The part time warden has left. The full time warden interviews were cancelled due to lack of funding. Chris Bray has now secured funding for a full time warden for one year. The toilets were being cleaned by the warden, but have been closed since he left. Litter is building up. Mountain bikers are using the concessionary footpath along the top of Stanage: the peaty soil cannot sustain this pressure and it's getting trashed. There is no overnight monitoring of the estate. It is generally not being properly looked after.

Henry and John Horscroft previously resigned from the Stanage Steering Group, but Adam Long stayed on. Louise Hawson has joined as secretary, and Andy Reeve has now joined.

Before he left, Bill Gordon (former estate warden) wrote a very forthright letter to the chair of the Audit, Performance & Resource Committee of the PDNPA.

The current situation is not working. The PDNPA need to work in partnership.

Rob Greenwood explained that he wrote to Sarah Fowler after the last meeting, but has not had a response. Chris Bray (Visitor Experience Manager) was invited to tonight's meeting but was unable to attend.

Austin Knott said it appears that Sarah Fowler's promises don't seem to have borne fruit, and we seem to be going backwards. The situation is generally unsettled and there is discontent.

Rob and Becky undertook to write to Sarah Fowler asking her for updates on some specific commitments.

Henry said that making a noise does have an effect.

We need feedback from Andy and Louise about how tomorrow's Stanage Steering Group goes.

**b. Ring Ouzels** (Kim Leyland)

Bill Gordon was significant in Ring Ouzel monitoring until last year, so there's a big gap to fill. Kim will be covering Burbage and the Eastern Moors Partnership area, and talking to the PDNPA about how to cover the gap left by Bill.

Volunteers are requested for nest monitoring. There were approx. 10 volunteers last year, and most have committed to doing it again. Involves visiting a site once a week for 4 weeks (3-4 hours each time).

Last year all nest failures were due to predation. At Stanage it is particularly important to avoid disturbance due to proximity to the crag & paths.

**c. Other bird restrictions**

Ravens nested last year at Millstone (on Twicker) and Curbar (Quad Quarry). The Curbar ravens were disturbed by a large group of people having a picnic. There will be efforts to monitor more closely this year.

**10. National Council** (David Brown)

David had provided a written report.

He drew attention to the work of subcommittees, as they had just received their annual reports. There is a tremendous amount of work done by volunteers, and we should all be very appreciative.

**11. Peak Area Newsletter**

People were asked to note the latest edition of the newsletter. Many thanks to Dave Parry and John Coefield for this latest edition. As always contribution and photographs welcome: Please send to: [peakarea@gmail.com](mailto:peakarea@gmail.com).

**12. BMC officers**

Nothing to add to matters already discussed

**13. Date, time and venue of the next meeting**

Originally set at Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 7.30pm at The Maynard Arms, Grindleford, S32 2HE. Subsequently changed to *Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April*.

It may be necessary to change the date of the November meeting to accommodate the expected BMC EGM.